

Reduction of excise duty on the Small Scale Garment Sector

4382. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Textiles is pleading for the reduction in 16 per cent excise duty proposed to be imposed in the current Budget on the Small Scale Garment Sector;

(b) whether the Ministry of Textiles has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance; and

(c) whether large scale textile imports pegged at Rs. 4000 crore this year mainly from Taiwan, will pose a threat to domestic garment industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) While some segments have welcomed the imposition of CENVAT on garments, certain manufacturers specially the exporters have opposed imposition of duty on branded garments. Ministry of Finance is seized of the issue and would take an appropriate decision on merit.

(c) The textiles imports from Taiwan constitutes 7.7% of total textile imports during the period (April-September, 2000). There are various safeguard measures available to protect the interest of domestic industry from unfair competition from imports and Government may resort to such measures, if situation so warrants.

Development activities undertaken by the NHDC in Andhra Pradesh

4383. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what development activities were undertaken by the National Handloom Development Corporation in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years, year-wise details of such activities;

(b) whether there is any action plan for the corporation for States for remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[25 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd., Lucknow had taken up several programmes in the State of Andhra Pradesh as a part of its developmental activities *i.e.* 6 Dyers Training Programme each during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 on Eco-friendly Dyes with the objective of giving opportunities to traditional dyers and printers to give them information about the new products and dyeing procedures and covered 1503 beneficiaries. During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, total 6 Laboratory Training Programmes, 2 and 4 respectively, were organised for the benefit of 32 weavers. During the year 1999-2000 one Exhibition on Appropriate Technology and one Orientation Programme on Quality Dyeing Units were organised. NHDC had also supplied Yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in addition of Dyes and Chemicals during these years.

(b) and (c) During the year 2001-2002, the last year of the 9th Plan, the Corporation also plans to organise a number of developmental programmes in all the States including Andhra Pradesh as per its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Setting up Handloom Marketing Complexes

4384. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up handloom marketing complexes to enable the handloom weavers to market their products there at remunerative prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many such complexes have been or proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh which is a major handloom producing State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) In order to project and sell the variety of handloom products of various States under one umbrella, the National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. is setting up Handloom Marketing Complexes in metropolitan cities. It has set up 10 such National Handloom